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The ValleyStar

VOLUME 55, ISSUE 4 www.lavalleystar.com March 15, 2001

Step into a career

■ **GROUNDHOG:** Experiencing a future career on Job Shadow day helps students to focus on their future.

By INGRID MOLINA
STAR REPORTER

Do you ever wonder what it would be like to spend a day in your dream career? Now here is your chance.

Valley College is offering its second annual job shadowing day. This program gives students the opportunity to spend half a day following a professional at work, in a career of their choice.

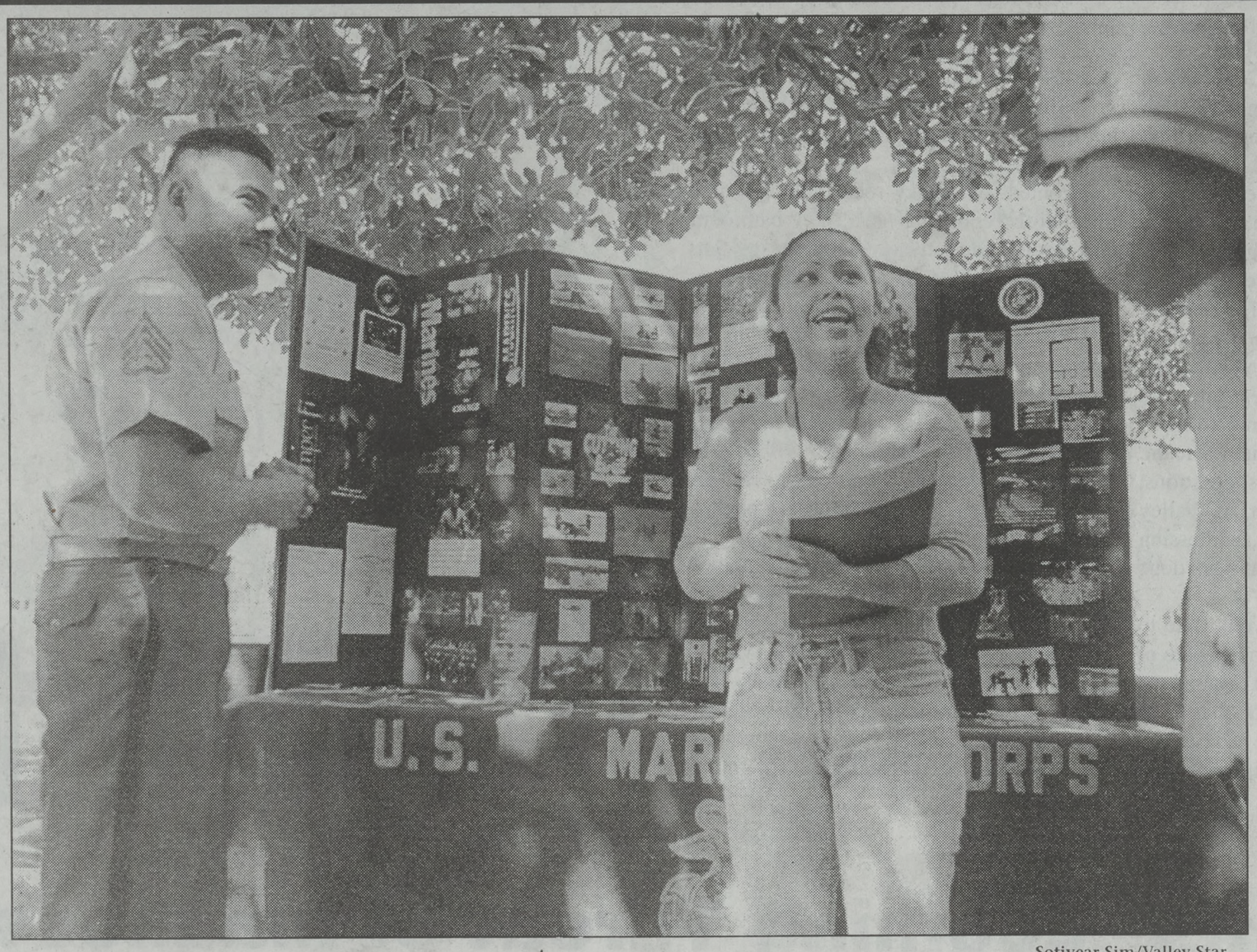
Job shadowing day is a nationwide program, and Valley is adding to this program.

How does it work? Students must sign up for a seminar at the Career and Transfer Center. Then the students are matched with a local company in their field of interest.

The purpose of the seminar is to clarify appropriate and realistic goals and to match the participant's skills with jobs. The seminar will also prepare students with questions to ask the person being shadowed.

"We are looking for students setting realistic goals for themselves," said Synthia Saltoun, director of the Career and Transfer Center. "It's reality training. It's first hand experience of what [it] is like."

Job shadowing was a pilot program in the Spring 2000 semester at Valley, placing 50 students with mentors in leading local companies and organizations. Because of its overwhelming success, this year Valley hopes to match up to 100 students with companies, Saltoun said.



Sotivear Sim/Valley Star

Valley student Kristel Davila talks to staff sargeant Alejandro Mendez about being a Marine during the job fair.

Campus under inspection

■ **ACCREDITATION:** Campus spiffs up in anticipation of evaluating agency.

By SOTIVEAR SIM
STAR REPORTER

A 12-member accreditation team will be on campus visiting classes, speaking to students and instructors to evaluate Valley College's effectiveness as an institution for higher learning.

Accreditation is a process that happens every six years to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching institutions.

The 12-panel team that will arrive Tuesday will decide whether or not the school will be an accredited institution. A school that's not accredited would mean that the units completed there would not be accepted by other universities or colleges . In our school's 51 year history it has always been accredited institution.

"We rely on our accreditation to verify that we are maintaining a standard for education," Vice President Sue Carleo said.

The whole Valley College community has pitched in preparation of the the arrival of the accrediting team. Many faculty and students volunteered their time in the self study report, which evaluated the steps Valley has to make itself a more effective learning environment.

> "We rely on our accreditation to verify that we are maintaining a standard of education."
>
> *VICE PRESIDENTSUE CARLEO*

"They have looked at all aspects of Valley College," said Professor Shannon Stack. "There were problems like at any school. We are making a lot of progress at Valley."

The accreditation team will also have open forums when students can come to them and voice their opinions, good or bad, about the school. This is the time for students,who feel they have no voice, to be heard.

The most noticeable change about Valley is the resurgence of the campus grounds. Trees have been trimmed and grass is growing in areas where there was only dirt and trash. This has been a constant mark of criticism about the campus.

With Proposition 13, the State no longer funded the maintenance of exterior and interior painting and various other maintenance and construction repairs, according to the self study report. The campus also has plans to remove the bungalows, built in the 1950s to be used as temporary facilities, to make room for a new Health Science Building in 2003. Also in the works is the plan to build the Media Arts Center.

"Our objective is to evaluate ourselves and have the team verify our claims for the purpose of making Valley College a better place," Vice President Carleo said.

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges will be on campus:
March 20, 21, 22

Club gives voice to all

■ **MECHA:** Campus club re-emerges under a new leader and in a new direction.

By ROGELIO GARCIA
STAR REPORTER

After a one year absence from the Valley College club scene, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanos de Aztlan, or MEChA, has returned with a new president and a new methodology. The organization, recognized for large-scale support and participation, was peculiarly non-active during the fall and spring semesters of last year. This semester, however, MEChA has recruited a new following including a new president, Brandon Olmos, son of famous Latin star Edward James Olmos.

"I have very strong feelings about the direction of MEChA and how it's directed toward the students," Olmos said. " I want to be inclusive to all students so that everyone has a voice."

Among MEChA's returning members is Pete J. Lopez, professor of Chicano Studies and adviser to the organization.

"Our [MEChA] philosophy is inclusiveness, we want to reach out, take a new direction," said Lopez, regarding the groups plans for the fall semester. Lopez, who has served as advisor for LAVC's MEChA since 1998, is satisfied with the direction the group is taking under Olmos.

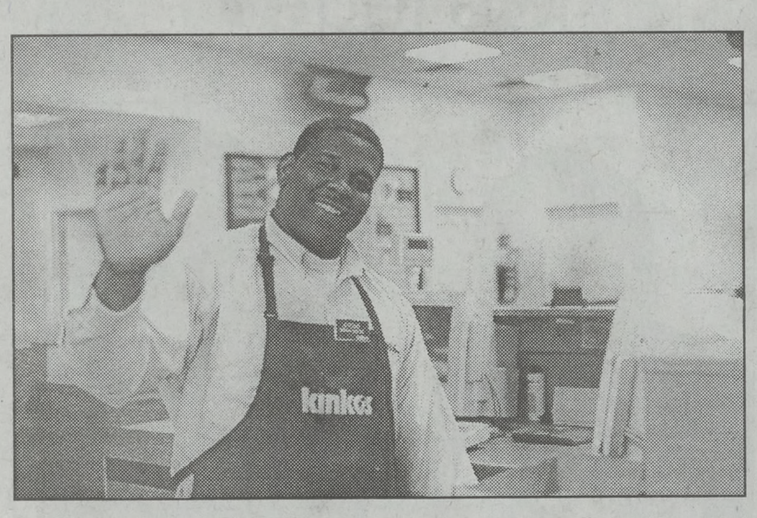
"I think he's done a great job."

SEE **MECHA, PAGE 3**

Kinko's runs out of ink

■ **BUSINESS:** Residents will miss convenient location.

By LINDA TOPDJIAN
STAR REPORTER



The Van Nuys' location of Kinko's will be closing its doors because of decreasing profits after opening its doors 27 years ago, said Kinko's manager, Chad Merriman.

Once open 24 hours a day, in the last three years they have had to downsize to nine employees and only operate eight hours a day, Merriman said.

At the other locations an average customer spends 16 dollars and at the Van Nuys location, only three dollars.

Also, Merriman said that there aren't enough corporate business orders and that the area doesn't have that kind of businesses around the Van Nuys location. He said that this store is located to close to the other Kinko's.

While local customers will be inconvenienced, all nine staff members have jobs at the other three locations. The machines are rented, and the building is only leased.

"This location is convenient for me. There's lots of parking available, to get in and out quickly, and I am not happy to see it close up," said local resident Bjorn Martinoff.

"It will effect me, I use their services at least twice weekly," said Van Nuys real estate agent Ingrid Butcher.

The manager of the nearby Subway Shop, Disna Rai, said, "I feel that they constantly have customers. They shouldn't leave and he probably will see a decline in his customers, because Kinko's brought in customers to his business."

Ria also said that the landowner of the shops has raised the rent very high in the past few years. He also said that the landowner has raised the rent in the past few years.

The following addresses are the three locations in the area within one and a half miles from this Kinko's store.

Kinko's (Sherman Oaks)
4556 Van Nuys Blvd.
(818) 906-2679
Kinko's (Studio City)
12101 Ventura Blvd.
(818) 980-2679

InsideStar

Page 3 Teacher Tidbit
Monarchs try to repeat last years performance, but first they have to go up against ,third seed, Moorpark College.

Page 2 Campus View
What would you change about Valley College?

EDITORIAL Hope For Campus

In the next week, students will have a rare opportunity to become part of the process that will shape the future of Valley College.

A team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Western Association of Schools and Colleges will be on campus March 20, 21 and 22. Not only will the team investigate the academic fitness of Valley, but will also determine whether or not certain standards set during the 1995 accreditation have been met. The accreditation team will be accessible to all students at given times during its visit. Accreditation ensures that courses taken at Valley will count toward transfer credits to four-year universities. Students will have the chance to input suggestions directly to the accreditation team.

In response to the last team's suggestions, the faculty and administration of Valley engaged in a lengthy self study, addressing each of the standards and what has been done to meet them.

The staff of the Valley Star would like to ensure that the accreditation team is aware of certain problems that we feel has plagued the college in recent years. We hope that more than academic fitness will be addressed, namely the physical safety and image of the campus.

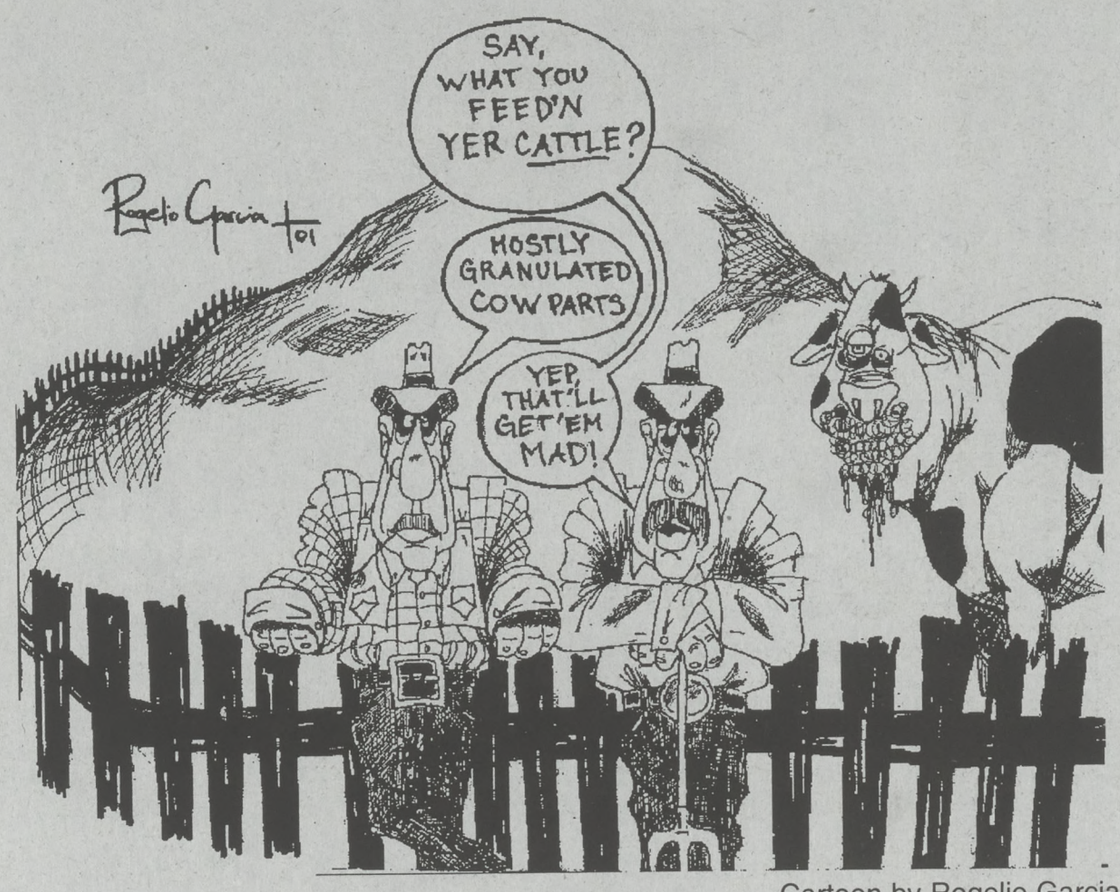
Image and morale go hand in hand. Students come to a campus with programs that, according to the self study, have "an excellent record in educating students" preparing to transfer to four-year institutions, but then have to deal with a aging, dilapidated campus.

Confronted with leaky roofs, falling ceiling tiles, closed computer labs, filthy bathrooms and poorly lit hallways and parking lots, learning becomes frustrated as these aesthetic concerns become issues of public safety.

In its defense, the study cites "meager financial resources" in its attempt to "provide an attractive environment given the constraints of our budget." However, according to the study, by June the campus will be fitted with new exterior and interior lighting and also has a 5-year-plan for restroom painting and tree trimming.

These improvements have been long anticipated. Serving approximately 18,000 students from diverse cultural backgrounds each year is no minor accomplishment. Valley's effort to reflect this increasing diversity in its faculty and administrative staff is a beacon of hope for change. We would like to encourage students to come together as a community and voice their concerns.

FEAR OF A MAD COW



Cartoon by Rogelio Garcia

Viewpoints Looming Threat of Madness

By E.N. ZACARIAS
STAR REPORTER

Very little is known about mad cow disease, but one thing is known for certain: the threat of this fatal disease is considerable and should not—by any means—be ignored by the United States.

First detected in England in 1986, mad cow disease was first mistaken as a neurological disorder because of the distinctive shaking movements of the infected cow, until the frightening discovery that it could jump species and transmit its fatal mental and physical degeneration to humans. When the death toll in England reached ten, British officials suddenly started to question the manner in which they raise cattle.

With England facing this problem, the question now is should Americans worry about mad cow disease?

Professor Richard Lacey, a microbiologist at Leeds University in England, has expressed great concern that there is the a likely chance that there is mad cow disease in the United States, only it has not been detected yet. He points to a dangerously similar disease called Chronic Wasting Disease that has been identified in North American deer and elk. He also suspects that this new strain has already claimed human lives.

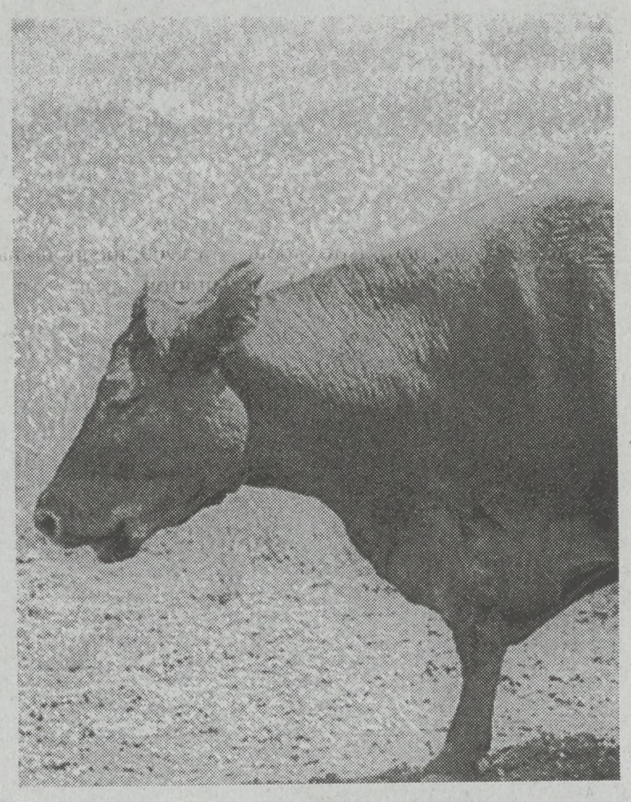
Part of the reason we should fear this disease is the potential hazard of the United States' livestock feeding methods. As in the U.K. and most of Europe, livestock feed consist of ground-up remnants of cattle remains, which is fed to other cattle and pigs. This unnatural food chain is now banned in Europe—and as of four years ago—in the United States too. Scientists site this forced cannibalism as the primary cause of mad cow disease.

> "Most frightening of all, however, is the fact that mad cow disease is a man-made disease"

According to a report from the Food and Drug Administration, several pharmaceutical manufacturers have used beef protein and calf serum from Europe in making vaccines for cattle. Consumers should question the use of vaccines, especially since they are considered a minimal risk but a risk none the less. But why would cattlemen taint the beef supply with risky unnatural byproducts? The reason is most likely a case of supply and demand. The public demands more than what the cattle producers can supply so they turn to synthetic means of rushing the growth process.

The United States government and the National Cattleman's Beef Association reassures the public that they are taking the necessary precautions in the likely case that mad cow disease is discovered here. Yet one has to look at the wide spread of the AIDS virus to see that containment for a fatal disease with no visible cure is the equivalent of trying to hold water with your hands—some of it is bound to slip right through.

Most frightening of all, however, is the fact that mad cow disease is a man-made disease. It's important that Congress treats this issue seriously and take extreme measures—no matter how severe—to neutralize any possibility of an outbreak. Perhaps, with strict feeding regulations and rigorous inspections of the beef supply, we can all look at mad cow disease as the ghost of what could have been a disaster.



E.N. Zacarias/Valley Star

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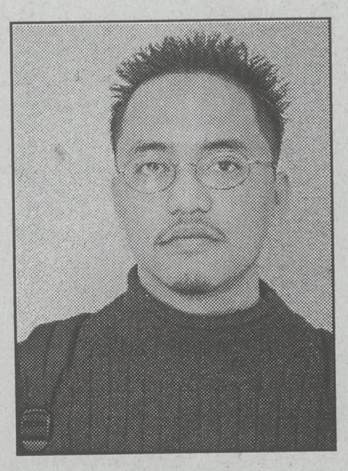
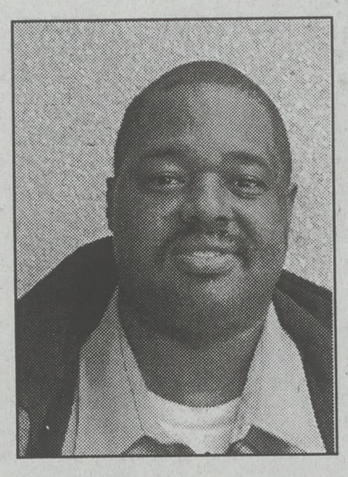
CampusView

What would you change about Valley College?



Everything is cool. I wouldn't change a thing. I don't have any complaints. The teachers are really nice the campus is clean.

Ronald Agustin, 24, Computer Science



Physically there is nothing wrong with the school. There are some professors who I would get rid of but there are many that I would keep. Make the school safer overall.

Gregory Streeter, Cadet, Administration of Justice

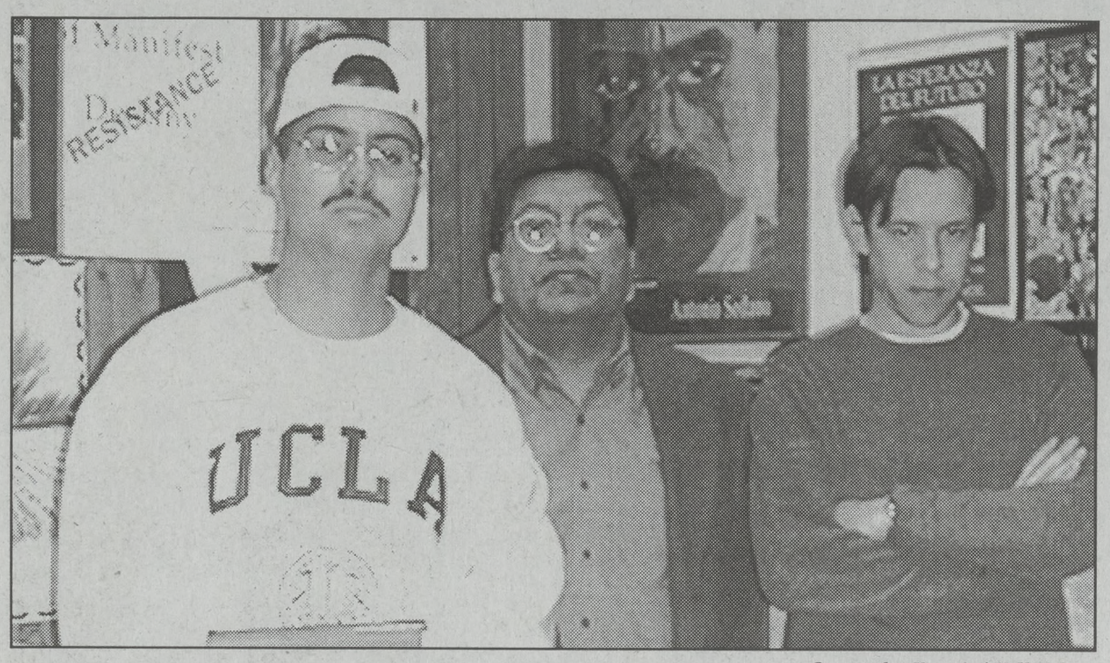
It would make me happy if they got rid of those people in the Administration building. They bounce you back and forth, it's ridiculous.

Cynthia Coleman, 19, English Major

I would repaint the school and fix the showers in the gym--it was too cold or too hot or didn't work at all.

Brenda Estrada, 20, FBI Criminology

Samantha Kuppig/Valley Star



Samantha Kuppig/ Valley Star

From left to right: Vice Chair Jesus Sanchez Uribe, Advisor Pete Lopez, President Brandon Olmos.

MEChA

CONT'D FROM **PAGE ONE**

said Lopez. "I feel good about the progress we're making."

The return of MEChA has indeed proven the organizations resilience, but the question still lingers: where was MEChA last year? "I was disappointed that MEChA wasn't around last semester," Olmos said.

According to the group's advisor, professor Lopez, there were many internal factors that contributed to MEChA's absence last year."

The past leadership transferred out," Lopez said. "We didn't have enough time to put a new group in place."

Despite MEChA's sudden hiatus last year, the group's leadership remains optimistic about their future endeavor. " We have a creative flow this semester," Lopez said. "We want to embrace culture in all its manifestations," he added. This inclusive approach differs greatly from the militaristic methodology for which the group is traditionally known.

"Our door are open to everyone," said Olmos, regarding the group's weekly meetings. During one recent meeting the group filled up the entire room and had people outside looking in. " I was walking down the hall and I heard the meeting taking place; I was interested in what was being discussed." said student Frank Hubbard.

Since MEChA's establishment in 1969, the group has had a reputation as a Mexican American/Chicano organization with little or no affiliation with other cultures.

In many other campuses this is still the case, but that is now changing. " We haven't abandoned the social-political dimensions of our organization. On the contrary, we're adding a positive approach," said Lopez.

"We have a lot of great events planned, and we welcome everyone to come and participate", says Olmos.

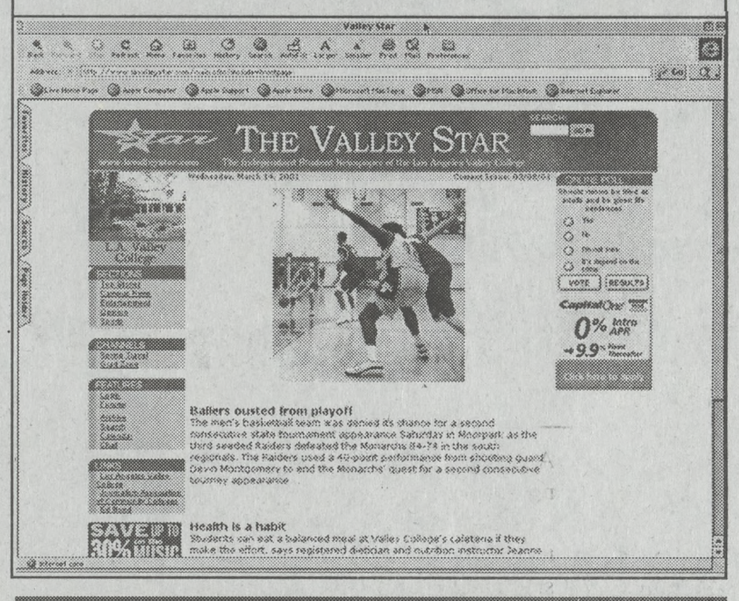
For questions or dates on upcoming events you can reach MEChA at Foreign Languages (FL) 108. Their meetings are held twice a week, Tuesdays at 11 am in FL 108 and Wednesdays at 6 pm in FL 111. SI SE PUEDE!

The Valley Star is going online.

The site will feature stories, forums, and unpublished pieces. Now you get to view all your favorite stories anytime from the comfort of your home or laptop.

The Valley Star online will also showcase our image section in full color. The best of the campus view will also be available, so you can get inside the heads of your fellow peers.

The site will be updated frequently to keep the community informed of the activities on campus. The site will also have a calendar section to post concerts, sporting events, and plays featured on campus or in the nearby community.



Randahl Fitts/ValleyStar

Teacher Tidbits: William Wallis

Valley College English professor William Wallis is one of the college's hidden talents.

Wallis, author of several published novels and poetry books, stresses to his students that honesty and clarity are the keys to good writing, he said. He teaches the class as if he were one of its students.

"He's generous with his time, and he helps students when they need it and is well spoken," said English 102 student Kevin Myerson.

Wallis said he expects his students to write essays that are filled with quality of thoughts, technical experience and detailed information.

Besides writing, Wallis enjoys acting and opera singing. He has a lot of ambition and inspiring energy.

"He gave me inspiration to look at things in a more detailed way, and he is a liberal man," said English 102 student Stephane Leveque.

"The truth is everything," Wallis said.

> "The truth is everything."
> *WILLIAM WALLIS*

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You can contact us at Valley Star newsroom

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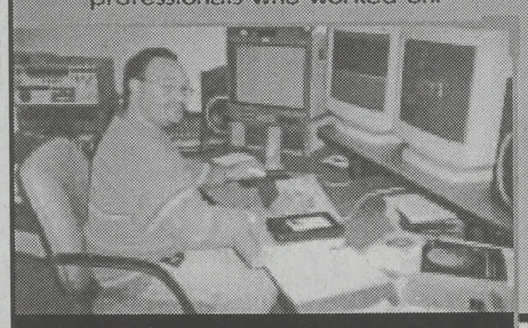
In collaboration with the American Cinema Editors (ACE), Cal State Northridge presents a new professional editing series that will let you learn from — and network with — Hollywood professionals who worked on:



- *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*
- *Return of the Jedi*
- *More American Graffiti*
- Brian De Palma's *Raising Cain*
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- Merchant-Ivory's *Cotton Mary*
- *Poltergeist*
- *The Black Stallion*
- *The Winds of War*
- *Shogun*
- *L.A. Law*
- *Grumpy Old Men*

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Campus SCENE

ASU Election

March 16, ASU Application Deadline
March 26, Candidates Forum, 9:30AM-11AM
April 3-4, Elections- Monarch Square, 8 AM-1 PM; 4 PM-7 PM

Job Shadow Day 2001

See what it's like to work in an occupation that interests you by spending half a day at a leading local company or organization, shadowing someone in that line of work

Interested students must attend one of the orientation sessions in Career &Transfer, Administration Building, room 126.

Orientation Dates
Wed.,March 14@ 12:30 pm
For more info contact Wendy (818) 947-2646
Career /Transfer Center

Schedule of College Reps.

UC Berkeley
March 28, 9-12
UC Los Angeles
March 19, 9-12
CSU Northridge
March 19, 10-1
CSU Dominguez Hills
March 15, 10:30-1
CSU Los Angeles
March 27, 10-2
Northern Arizona Univ.
March 15, 10-1

Appointments at Career/Transfer Center

Campus Concert Series Schedule

Music of China
March 15, Music Recital Hall, 11:30 AM
James Edwards, classical guitar
March 22, 11:30 AM
Tim Dewitt, tenor and Ronna Binn, piano
March 29, Music Recital Hall, 1:30 AM
LAVC Wind Ensemble

Town Hall Meeting

Monday, March 19
5:00-5:45 PM Fireside Room
Tuesday, March 20
11:00-12 PM FL 107
Wednesday, March 21
2:30-3:00 PM FL 107
Thursday, March 22
1:00-2:00 PM Fireside Room

Monarch Athletics Upcoming Games and Meets

(Home games noted in bold)

Softball

March 15	Santa Monica	2:30 p.m.
March 20	Canyons	2:30 p.m.
March 22	**Glendale**	**2:30 p.m.**

Baseball

March 15	Glendale	2:00 p.m.
March 17	**Glendale**	**1:00 p.m.**
March 20	Bakersfield	2:00 p.m.
March 22	**Bakersfield**	**2:00 p.m.**

Men's and Women's Swimming

March 23	**Pierce**	**2:30 p.m.**

Track and Field

March 17	BC Relays	9:00 a.m.

Team trains doggedly

■TRACK: Dedicated coach stirs interest in lagging team.

By SOTIVEAR SIM
STAR REPORTER

Under the watchful eyes of coach Francois Wolman, Valley College hopes that he will one day transform the men's track and field team to a powerhouse in the Western State Conference, similar to how he invigorated the cross country team to lead them to finish 13 in the state.

"We have a lot of new people on the team," coach Wolman said. "Some are new to track. We have only one sophomore, and he is injured."

Even though he has a young team with many inexperienced athlete,s he has high aspirations for the team.

"The athletes are nice; they are interested, and they are trying hard," coach Wolman said.

The men's track and field team consist of about 30 individuals who compete in a wide array of events. A typical track team would have almost double this number competing. As a result many of the track and field athletes sometimes compete in as many as six events.

"We don't have enough people to race all the events," said Johalmo Morales, who competes in the 4x100 meter relays. "That's why people race so many different events. I finish one event and then I run across the field to compete in another one."

The track team trains daily, running around the dusty gravel track on campus or logging miles in the surrounding neighborhoods. They log as many miles on the field as a person would log driving in a car in one day.

"If we had a rubber track we would have a lot more people," said Joshua Engel. "Running on the dirt track can increase your chances of injury." Engel competes in the 4x100 meter relay, 400 m, 800 m, 200 m, and the 4x400 relay.

In its second year under the wing of coach Wolman, the Monarchs have made progress but have not had the success similar to cross country.

"It all boils down to recruiting," said Wolman. "Which I am starting to do next week." A sign of progress has been the addition of new sprint coach, Yannick Allain. Coach Allain carries a small video camera with him, which he uses to analyze the sprinters form.

"I go to Valley because of the instructors and coach Wolman," said runner David Tracy. "I live right next to College of the Canyons, but I commute 30

Women's Softball Highlights

Scores

March 13 Monarch 6, Citrus 2
March 10 Monarchs3, Bakersfield 11
March 9 Monarchs 2, Hancock 6
March 8 Monarchs 0, Cuesta 8
March 7 Monarchs 1, Santa Barbara 3

Western State Conference record 2 - 6
Overall record 6 - 11 - 1

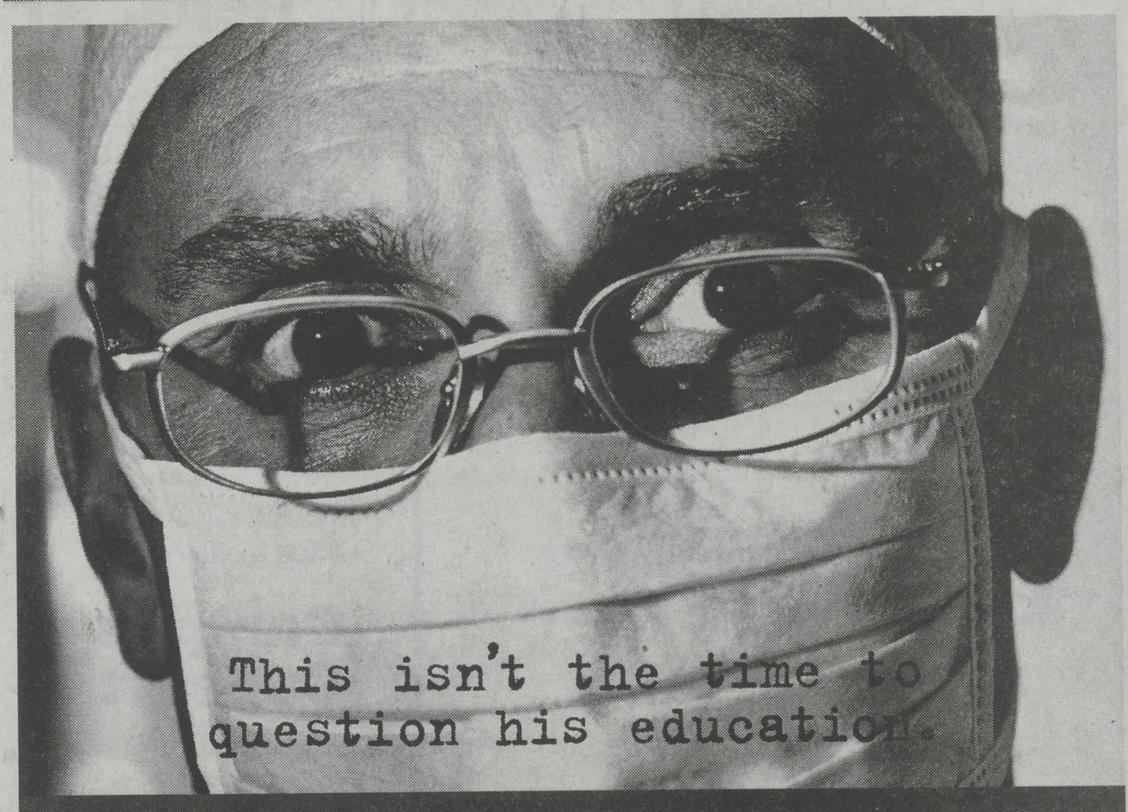
The women's softball team played against the northern teams in the Western State Conference March 7 through March 10.

"The team is bouncing back from that tough week," coach Leticia Carranza said.

Caren Garcia, who plays third base, was voted player of the game in the March 9 game against Hancock and short stop Blair Blakeley, in the March 10 game against Bakersfield, Carranza said. The coaches vote for the player of the game at the end of each game.

The team's top three hitters are Blakeley, Aileen Feri and Angela Nunez. Blakeley is ranked seven in the conference and is batting .500.

The team had a big win against Citrus on March 13, scoring 6-2, Carranza said.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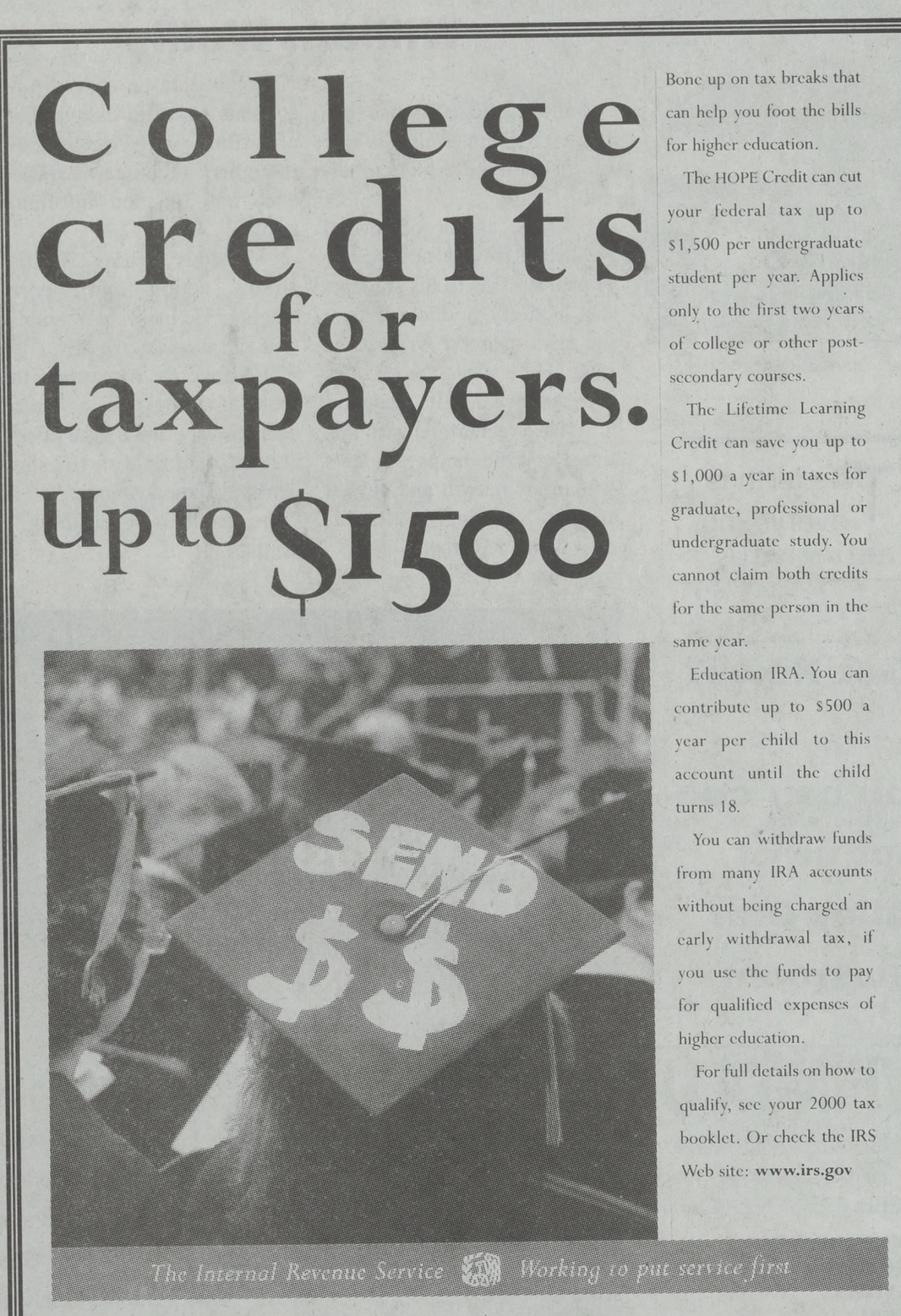
Education Excellence Partnership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The Lifetime Learning Credit can save you up to $1,000 a year in taxes for graduate, professional or undergraduate study. You cannot claim both credits for the same person in the same year.
Education IRA. You can contribute up to $500 a year per child to this account until the child turns 18.
You can withdraw funds from many IRA accounts without being charged an early withdrawal tax, if you use the funds to pay for qualified expenses of higher education.
For full details on how to qualify, see your 2000 tax booklet. Or check the IRS Web site: www.irs.gov
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